



## Habitats

bottomland forests

## Iowa Status

uncommon; native

## Iowa Range

year round: mostly northeast corner of Iowa; also scattered along rivers across the rest of the state

## Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## pileated woodpecker

*Dryocopus pileatus*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Aves
Order:	Piciformes
Family:	Picidae

## Features

Iowa's largest and most conspicuous woodpecker, an adult pileated woodpecker, is 16 to 20 inches long. A red crest is present on the top of the head. The rest of the body is black, except for the underside of the wing, which is white. It has zygodactylous feet (two toes forward, two toes backward). The male has bright red on the forehead and a red spot on each side of the mouth. The female has no red markings on the forehead or cheek.

## Natural History

The pileated woodpecker lives in bottomland forests along the Mississippi River and other major river valleys. It eats ants, wood-boring beetles, other insects, acorns, and berries. The call of the pileated woodpecker is "kik-kikkik-kik-kik." It is able to make large, oval holes in trees or wood by using its heavy bill. It nests in large trees, especially sycamores, in bottomland forests. The nesting season occurs from April through May. Three to five white eggs are laid.